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gold size; the exterior ring being of vermilion or purple lake, and the interior ring white zinc in preference to white lead. Sealing wax varnish he does not trust.

AUTO-MICROSCOPY.—Dr. Otto Obermier, who died of cholera at Berlin a few months since at the age of thirty-one, deserves to be remembered as the first microscopist, probably, who continued his studies in pathology by the study of his own blood during the progress of the disease of which he died; the disease having been contracted, also, by imprudent devotion to its investigation.

MEASURING THE GROWTH-RATE OF PLANTS.—E. Askenasy measures with a micrometer the advance of the growing point of a root or branch in a glass tube in the field of the microscope. The stem is fixed by cork or other means at one end of the tube, and the conditions of light, temperature and moisture are easily regulated.

A REVOLVING AMPLIFIER.—Mr. John Emery exhibited, at the Royal Microscopical Society, a series of amplifiers, plano-concave lenses of different foci, arranged in a metallic disk which revolves so as to bring any desired lens within the body of the microscope.

QUIETING FROGS.—At the Medical Microscopical Society, Dr. Bruce stated that a frog might be quieted, for experiment on the circulation, etc., by holding for a few minutes in the hand, as well as by the usual plan of immersing in warm water.

NOTES.

LT. G. W. WHEELER'S Expedition, for the Survey of the Territories west of the 100th meridian, has lately returned to Washington to elaborate the results of the last season's work in the field. A very extensive ground in Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona was thoroughly gone over, and large collections were made by the naturalists of the expedition in all departments of zoology, as well as in botany and geology. The suite of birds is particularly large and valuable, embracing many rarities and desiderata. Too much credit cannot be given to Mr. H. W. Henshaw for his indefatigable exertions in this department. His skins are in admirable preservation, and form one of the most valuable lots ever brought from the West. The birds and mammals will be elaborated by Mr. Henshaw, in connection with Dr. H. C. Yarrow, a

well-known and accomplished naturalist. The collection of reptiles, fishes and insects is large; these objects will severally be placed in the hands of the most competent specialists for elaboration. Among the *Orthoptera*, it may be observed, many of Haldemann's little known or lost species are recovered. There is a valuable collection of crania, implements and other ethnological material. The field work in Natural History of 1873 was accomplished by Mr. Henshaw, with Dr. Rothrock, the talented young botanist, Dr. Newberry, Jr., and Dr. Loew. Next season, the same department will be placed entirely in the charge of Dr. Yarrow, who will be assisted by Dr. Rothrock, Mr. Henshaw and others. We shall look for still more interesting results under this excellent arrangement. We learn that seven volumes showing the progress of the work thus far, and beautifully illustrated, are now being arranged for the printer. Every naturalist will join us in hoping that the good work may be successfully prosecuted, and in trusting that the appropriations necessary to this end may be made by Congress.

THE annual social meeting of the Troy Scientific Association was held Jan. 19th, at the residence of Dr. Ward, on Fourth street. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the attendance was good, nearly one hundred being present, and half of that number ladies. Among the gentlemen present were noticed Rev. Dr. Robinson, Rev. Dr. Irvin, Rev. Mr. Hervey, Rev. Mr. Young, and many other leading citizens. After a talk of about two hours, the election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. Prof. Beattie read the report of the committee on nominations, which recommended the election of the following gentlemen: President, Dr. R. H. Ward; First Vice President, Rev. A. B. Hervey; second do., Rev. Wm. Irvin; Corresponding Secretary, F. H. Stevens; Recording Secretary, Prof. A. E. Bower; Treasurer, Prof. David Beattie. On motion the report was accepted and the parties above named duly elected. The following persons were elected members of the Association; resident members, Francis O. Dorr, of Troy, and Albert E. Powers, of Lansingburg; corresponding member, John Jones, of Rensselaerville, N. Y. After the election and other formal business had been transacted the company repaired to the dining room, and were hospitably entertained.

THE Rev. John Bachman of Charleston, S. C., died on Feb. 25th, at the venerable age of 85. This eminent naturalist and theologian was a native of New York, having been born in Dutchess county, Feb. 4, 1790. He joined the ministry of the Lutheran Church in 1813, and in 1815 became pastor of the German Church of that denomination in Charleston, S. C., retaining that office until his death. He was an associate of Audubon, whom he assisted in the preparation of his great work on Ornithology, and was the principal author of the three volumes on the quadrupeds of North America, illustrated by that great naturalist and his sons. Bachman also published other works and about fifteen minor papers, all evincing unusual powers of observation, especially those on change of color in birds, on the migration of birds, on the mode of reproduction of the opossum, and several anthropological papers.

THE Legislature of Kentucky have appropriated \$18,500, annually, for two years, for a new geological survey of the state. Prof. N. S. Shaler is appointed state geologist.

Is not the time coming for a careful geological and zoological survey of the state of Massachusetts? While surveys are going on or have recently been completed in so many other states, it is not particularly to the credit of this state that a thorough survey of its geological and biological riches has not been instituted. It is now over thirty years since the original incomplete survey of the state was made. Since then physical science has changed so much that the work done then needs to be reviewed and greatly extended.

THE enterprising city of Waterbury is to be congratulated on the possession of a score or more of gentlemen, associated as the Waterbury Scientific Society, who have been endeavoring for several years, by popular lectures and other means, to attract the more intelligent of their fellow-citizens to the improvement and development of their minds by the beginnings of scientific research. It is not often that any except a college town has so many men who are earnest students in special fields of knowledge, and who have made so much attainment in their specialties.—*Hartford Courant*.

A MICROSCOPICAL Society has been formed at Louisville, Kentucky, which meets the first and third Thursdays of each month.

The following are the names of the officers for the ensuing year : President, J. Lawrence Smith ; Vice Presidents, Noble Butler, Chas. F. Carpenter ; Treasurer, C. T. F. Allen ; Cor. Sec'y, E. S. Crosier ; Secretary, John Williamson ; Executive Committee, Thos. E. Jenkins, James Knapp, W. T. Beach, E. R. Palmer, R. C. Gwathmey.

THE Maryland Academy of Sciences have recently built a new hall for a museum 30×70 feet, by 20 feet high. It is proposed to arrange in it a biological collection of the objects chiefly representative of the regions of which Maryland forms a part.

EXCHANGES.

Slides of Diatoms arranged in groups, offered for other mounted microscopic specimens.—W. W. RINER, Greene, Butler Co., Iowa.

W. M. WILSON would like to correspond with two or three young botanists for the purpose of exchanging Rocky Mountain specimens for eastern species of plants.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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Proceedings Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. 8vo, sig. 27, 1873.

Notice of New Equine Mammals from the Tertiary Formation. By O. C. Marsh. Received Feb. 28, 1874. 8vo, pp. 12. (From Am. Jour. Sci. and Arts, Vol. vii, March, 1874.)

Reports on the Geological Survey of the State of Missouri. 1859-1871. 8vo, pp. 323. With maps, plates and woodcuts. Jefferson City, 1873.

Geological Survey of Missouri. Preliminary Report on the Iron Ores and Coal Fields from the Field Work of 1872. 8vo, pp. 655. 190 illustrations in the text and an atlas. New York, 1873.

Entomologische Zeitung. Jahrgang 34. Stettin, 1873.

Bulletin Meteorologique Mensuel de l'Observatoire de l'Université d'Upsal. 4to, Vol. iv. Nos. 1-12, Dec. 1871-Nov. 1872. Vol. v, Nos. 1-6, Dec. 1872-May 1873. Upsal.

Nova Acta Regiæ Societatis Scientiarum Upsaliensis. 4to, Series 3, Vol. viii, Part 2, 7 plates. Upsal, 1873.

Mémoires de la Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève. 4to, Tome xxiii, Part 1, Plates 8-10. Genève, 1873.

Berliner Entomologischer Zeitschrift. 8vo, Jahrgang 17. Pts. 1 and 2. Berlin, 1873.

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Vierter Bericht der Naturwissenschaften Gesellschaft zu Chemnitz. 8vo. Jan. 1, 1871-Dec. 31, 1872. Chemnitz, 1873.

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Sitzungsberichte der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften. 8vo, Band lxxi, Parts 1, 2, 3. Hefte 1-5, 1874. Band lxxii, Part 1, Hefte 1-5, Part 2, Hefte 1-3, 1873. With plates. Wien.

Dictionary of Elevations and Climatic Register of the United States. By J. M. Toner. 8vo, pp. 93. D. Van Nostrand, Publisher. New York, 1874.

Elements of Zoology. By M. Harbison. 12mo, pp. 172. G. P. Putnam's Sons, Publishers. New York, 1874.

Notes upon the Fossil Remains of the Lower Carboniferous Limestone Exposed at Grand Rapids, Mich. By E. A. Strong. 8vo, pp. 6. No. 3 of Miscellaneous Papers of the Kent Scientific Institute.

Astronomical and Meteorological Observations made during the year 1871, at the U. S. Naval Observatory. 4to, pp. 984. Washington, 1873.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Secretary of the Mass. Board of Agriculture, with an Appendix. 8vo, pp. 620. Boston, 1874.

Notes on Microscopic Crystals included in some Minerals. Two papers, with one plate. *Descriptions of new Species of Unionidae.* etc. 6 papers. By Isaac Lea. 8vo, pp. 24. (From Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia.) 1874.

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